

July 7, 2004

Chairman Michael Powell  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12th Street, S.W.  
Washington, DC 20554

RE: WC Docket No. 03-133

Chairman Powell:

The FCC should **not** impose new access charges and fees upon prepaid calling cards. If you move to increase the cost of these cards, you will simply drive up the cost for minority or disadvantaged individuals to stay in touch in their communities.

The Latino community is particularly sensitive to any price increase for pre-paid calling cards; approximately 43% of Latino households use them. Indeed, half of the households with incomes below \$20,000 have used prepaid cards. Pre-paid calling cards are so prevalent in part because they save consumers money.

With gas and milk prices already holding fixed and low income consumers hostage, we should not be faced with rising telephone service costs as well. In particular, many low-income households who are on fixed incomes depend entirely upon prepaid service because they cannot meet the credit rating or hefty deposit requirements that local phone companies insist upon before getting a phone. With prepaid cards, consumers can make calls from payphones or the telephones of family members and neighbors. We can use these cards to stay "connected" as we look for jobs, hunt for houses, or schedule many of the other daily appointments that we all have.

I simply find it unimaginable that the FCC would impose new charges and fees on these cards. Some of the nation's largest telephone companies would be the largest beneficiaries of such charges. **The FCC should stand up for consumer interests over corporate gain by keeping affordable prepaid calling cards a priority.**

Sincerely,

*Beatrice R. De Los Angeles*

ccs: Commissioner Michael Copps  
Commissioner Kathleen Abernathy  
Commissioner Kevin Martin  
Commissioner Jonathan Adelstein  
Senator  
Senator  
Congressperson

TX

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Sincerely,

*Maria Salinas TX*

ccs: Commissioner Michael Copps  
Commissioner Kathleen Abernathy  
Commissioner Kevin Martin  
Commissioner Jonathan Adelstein  
Senator  
Senator  
Congressperson

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Dear Chairman Powell:

Latino and other minority communities rely upon low-cost telecommunications services to accomplish many every day tasks, from looking for a job or affordable housing to staying in touch with family and friends. But pending before the FCC is a proposal that would introduce new charges and fees upon services upon which we depend, immediately harming millions of Latinos and other consumers nationwide.

- I understand that the FCC is considering applying "in-state" access charges and other fees on certain prepaid calling card services. Many Latinos, particularly those on fixed incomes or those establishing a credit history, bank accounts and other means necessary to subscribe to local telephone service, rely upon these prepaid calling cards to stay connected at set affordable rates. Students, immigrants, senior citizens, and others face similar challenges.

As a result, prepaid calling cards are the **only** option available – without them, many consumers could, quite literally, be left without access to telephone service. Raising the price of prepaid calling cards will directly harm individuals who can least afford price increases.

Imposing in-state charges would amount to a substantial increase in the cost of prepaid calls, destroying the utility of calling cards to disadvantaged consumers. Allowing the large, local telephone companies to collect such charges, even when they do not sell the calling card to a customer, would drive up prices; thus making these services substantially less affordable. Please look out for consumers and refuse to impose new access charges and fees on prepaid calling card services.

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 Alvaro Texas

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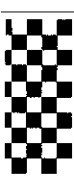
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Adding access charges to be paid to local telephone companies will substantially increase the per minute charges on pre-paid calls, jeopardizing the benefits Latino and other communities gain from these services. Please stop any effort to raise rates on American consumers and decide that these services are not subject to the exorbitant new access charges and other fees.

Sincerely,

*Pete de la Santos, Texas*

ccs: Commissioner Michael Copps  
Commissioner Kathleen Abernathy  
Commissioner Kevin Martin  
Commissioner Jonathan Adelstein  
Senator  
Senator  
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Sincerely,

*Lupia H. Aguirre* - TEXAS

ccs: Commissioner Michael Copps  
Commissioner Kathleen Abernathy  
Commissioner Kevin Martin  
Commissioner Jonathan Adelstein  
Senator  
Senator  
Congressperson

I urge the Commission not to add new access charges and other fees to pre-paid calling card services. If you do, many of the nation's most price-sensitive telephone consumers will immediately feel the burden.

Sincerely,

  
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Executive Director

ccs: Commissioner Michael Copps  
Commissioner Kathleen Abernathy  
Commissioner Kevin Martin  
Commissioner Jonathan Adelstein  
Senator Charles Schumer  
Senator Hillary Rodham Clinton





**Asian American Federation  
of New York**

July 13, 2004

Chairman Michael Powell  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12th Street, S.W.  
Washington, DC 20554

Re: WC Docket 03-133

Dear Chairman Powell,

On behalf of the Asian-American Federation of New York, I am writing to urge the FCC not to impose new, hidden access charges and fees on pre-paid telephone calling cards. These calling cards are an important means for Asian-Americans, particularly those on low and fixed incomes, to stay in touch, and increasing the cost of these services will hit many of Asian-Americans hard and directly in the pocketbook.

A recent study by AAFNY showed that more than 80% of Asian senior citizens in New York City have limited English skills, and that one-quarter live below the poverty line. For low-income or fixed-income consumers, prepaid calling cards are frequently the most economic means of staying in touch with friends and family. In addition, many Asian-Americans are more comfortable with pre-paid telephone service as they know exactly how much they will be paying for the service rather than receiving a bill at the end of each month. As a result, the Asian-American community is among the fastest-growing markets for pre-paid calling cards, with 10% of Asian-American households having used these cards.

But the benefits of calling cards are now at risk, and members of the Asian-American community may soon see prices for these cards increase, simply so large local telephone companies can collect inflated "access charges" on this service. At a time in which gas costs over \$2 per gallon and the cost of other consumer products are rising, the Asian-American community should not be asked to take money from its pockets to place it in the hands of some of the largest companies in America.

120 Wall Street, 3rd Floor, New York, NY 10005

Tel: (212) 344-5878 • Fax: (212) 344-5636 • E-mail: [info@aafny.org](mailto:info@aafny.org) • Website: [www.aafny.org](http://www.aafny.org)

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Imposing in-state charges would amount to a substantial increase in the cost of prepaid calls, destroying the utility of calling cards to disadvantaged consumers. Allowing the large, local telephone companies to collect such charges, even when they do not sell the calling card to a customer, would drive up prices; thus making these services substantially less affordable. Please look out for consumers and refuse to impose new access charges and fees on prepaid calling card services.

Sincerely,

*Yolanda O. Zapata TX*

ccs: Commissioner Michael Copps  
Commissioner Kathleen Abernathy  
Commissioner Kevin Martin  
Commissioner Jonathan Adelstein  
Senator *Kay Hutchinson*  
Senator *John Cornyn*  
Congressperson

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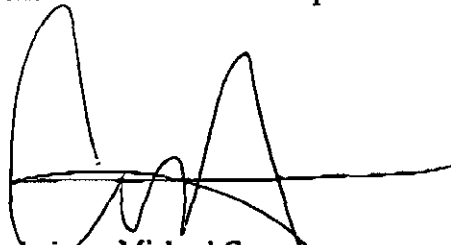
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But such price hikes are precisely what the FCC will do if it inflicts new "in-state" access charges and other fees on pre-paid cards. The fees would funnel directly to large local telephone companies while the burden would fall squarely upon those consumers that can least afford to bear it.

Adding access charges to be paid to local telephone companies will substantially increase the per minute charges on pre-paid calls, jeopardizing the benefits Latino and other communities gain from these services. Please stop any effort to raise rates on American consumers and decide that these services are not subject to the exorbitant new access charges and other fees.

Sincerely,

*To Raymond Valenzuela*

ccs: Commissioner Michael Copps  
Commissioner Kathleen Abernathy  
Commissioner Kevin Martin  
Commissioner Jonathan Adelstein  
Senator *Ray Hutchison*  
Senator *John Cornyn*  
Congressperson

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*Mary Quirio TX.*

ccs: Commissioner Michael Copps  
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Commissioner Jonathan Adelstein  
Senator *Kay Hutchison*  
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Sincerely,

*Jaqueline Acute*  
*Texas*

ccs: Commissioner Michael Copps  
Commissioner Kathleen Abernathy  
Commissioner Kevin Martin  
Commissioner Jonathan Adelstein  
Senator  
Senator  
Congressperson

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Sincerely,

*Consuelo Montalvo*  
*Laredo, Texas*

ccs: Commissioner Michael Copps  
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Dear Chairman Powell:


Latino and other minority communities rely upon low-cost telecommunications services to accomplish many every day tasks, from looking for a job or affordable housing to staying in touch with family and friends. But pending before the FCC is a proposal that would introduce new charges and fees upon services upon which we depend, immediately harming millions of Latinos and other consumers nationwide.

I understand that the FCC is considering applying "in-state" access charges and other fees on certain prepaid calling card services. Many Latinos, particularly those on fixed incomes or those establishing a credit history, bank accounts and other means necessary to subscribe to local telephone service, rely upon these prepaid calling cards to stay connected at set affordable rates. Students, immigrants, senior citizens, and others face similar challenges.

As a result, prepaid calling cards are the only option available – without them, many consumers could, quite literally, be left without access to telephone service. Raising the price of prepaid calling cards will directly harm individuals who can least afford price increases.

Imposing in-state charges would amount to a substantial increase in the cost of prepaid calls, destroying the utility of calling cards to disadvantaged consumers. Allowing the large, local telephone companies to collect such charges, even when they do not sell the calling card to a customer, would drive up prices; thus making these services substantially less affordable. Please look out for consumers and refuse to impose new access charges and fees on prepaid calling card services.

Sincerely,

  
TX

ccs: Commissioner Michael Copps  
Commissioner Kathleen Abernathy  
Commissioner Kevin Martin  
Commissioner Jonathan Adelstein  
Senator *Ray Hutchison*  
Senator *John Cornyn*  
Congressperson

July 7, 2004

Chairman Michael Powell  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12th Street, S.W.  
Washington, DC 20554

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Sincerely,

*Ry Culley*  
78216

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Sincerely,

*Stacy Sloan (202) 78210*

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RE: WC Docket No. 03-133

Chairman Powell:

The FCC should not impose new access charges and fees upon prepaid calling cards. If you move to increase the cost of these cards, you will simply drive up the cost for minority or disadvantaged individuals to stay in touch in their communities.

The Latino community is particularly sensitive to any price increase for pre-paid calling cards; approximately 43% of Latino households use them. Indeed, half of the households with incomes below \$20,000 have used prepaid cards. Pre-paid calling cards are so prevalent in part because they save consumers money.

With gas and milk prices already holding fixed and low income consumers hostage, we should not be faced with rising telephone service costs as well. In particular, many low-income households who are on fixed incomes depend entirely upon prepaid service because they cannot meet the credit rating or hefty deposit requirements that local phone companies insist upon before getting a phone. With prepaid cards, consumers can make calls from payphones or the telephones of family members and neighbors. We can use these cards to stay "connected" as we look for jobs, hunt for houses, or schedule many of the other daily appointments that we all have.

I simply find it unimaginable that the FCC would impose new charges and fees on these cards. Some of the nation's largest telephone companies would be the largest beneficiaries of such charges. **The FCC should stand up for consumer interests over corporate gain by keeping affordable prepaid calling cards a priority.**

Sincerely,

*Olivia Moran*  
SMT

ccs: Commissioner Michael Copps  
Commissioner Kathleen Abernathy  
Commissioner Kevin Martin  
Commissioner Jonathan Adelstein  
Senator *Ray Hutchison*  
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Sincerely,

*Martin Gutierrez Jr.*  
MARTIN GUTIERREZ JR.

TEXAS

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Senator *Key Hutchinson*  
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